

## Arkansas Specialty Court Conference

April 9-10, 2025

Embassy Suites – Little Rock, Arkansas

### Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>

8:00 – 9:00	<b>Registration</b>	Atrium
9:00 – 9:15	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>  <b>Marty Sullivan</b> <i>Director</i> <i>Administrative Office of the Courts</i>	Rock Island I-VII
9:15 – 10:30	<b>Working Effectively with People Who Have Experienced Trauma</b>  <b>Sufna John, Ph.D.</b> <i>Co-Director   Arkansas Building Effective Services for Trauma</i> <i>University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences</i> <i>Complex Trauma Assessment Program</i>	Rock Island I-VII
10:30 – 10:45	<b>Break</b>	
10:45 – 12:00	<b>Strengths-Based Language in Treatment Courts</b>  <b>Will Smith, M.S.W</b> <i>Reentry Specialist   Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Program</i> <i>U.S. Probation Office, Northern District of Illinois</i>	Rock Island I-VII
12:00 – 1:30	<b>Lunch</b>  Embassy Suites is hosting a number of local food trucks in its parking lot. Attendees are welcome to purchase food and bring it back into the Rock Island ballroom.	
1:30 – 2:30	<b>Breakout Hour 1</b>	
2:30 – 3:30	<b>Breakout Hour 2</b>	
3:30 – 3:45	<b>Break</b>	
3:45 – 4:45	<b>Breakout Hour 3</b>	

## Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts

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**Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 – 9:00	<b>Registration</b>	Atrium
9:00 – 10:00	<b>Recognition of Specialty Court Service and Treatment Court Programs Spotlight</b>	Rock Island I-VII
	<b>Hon. Andy Gill</b> <i>Circuit Judge   6th Judicial Circuit Perry County Adult Drug Court</i>	
	<b>Nathan McCarroll</b> <i>Staff Attorney for Specialty Courts &amp; Statewide Specialty Courts Coordinator Administrative Office of the Courts</i>	
	<b>Hon. Milas “Butch” Hale</b> <i>District Court Judge   31st Judicial District Sherwood DWI Court</i>	
	<b>Hon. Scott Ellington</b> <i>Circuit Judge   2nd Judicial Circuit Craighead County Mental Health Court</i>	
	<b>Michelle Barrett</b> <i>Court Coordinator Benton County Veterans Treatment Court</i>	
10:00 – 11:00	<b>Ask Us Anything: Multi-Disciplinary Panel (For Juvenile Track, Breakout Hour 4 in Junction I-II)</b>	Rock Island I-VII
	<b>Alejandra Garcia (Moderator)</b> <i>Associate Director   National Technical Assistance Center for Justice Innovation</i>	
	<b>Hon. Melissa Richardson</b> <i>Circuit Judge   2nd Judicial Circuit Craighead County Adult Drug Court</i>	
	<b>Carl M. Dawson, M.S., MAC, LPC, Q-SAP</b> <i>Treatment Provider, Springfield, Missouri Independent Practice</i>	
	<b>Michelle Barrett</b> <i>Court Coordinator Benton County Adult Drug Court, Veterans Treatment Court, and Mental Health Court</i>	

## Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts

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**Agent Joe Johnson**  
*ACC Probation Officer*  
*Perry County Adult Drug Court*

**Tarrie L. Barnes**  
*Treatment Counselor*  
*Union County Adult Drug Court*

**Erin Lewis**  
*Public Defender*  
*Pulaski County Veterans Treatment Court*

**Sara Swearengin**  
*Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Fourth Judicial District*  
*Washington & Madison Counties Adult Drug Courts,*  
*Washington County Mental Health Treatment &*  
*Veterans Treatment Courts*

11:00 – 12:00

**Ask Us Anything: Individual Role Breakouts**  
**(For Juvenile Track, Breakout Hour 5 in Junction I-II)**

Rock Island I-VII

**Alejandra Garcia (Moderator)**  
*Associate Director | National Technical Assistance*  
*Center for Justice Innovation*

**Hon. Melissa Richardson**  
*Circuit Judge | 2nd Judicial Circuit*  
*Craighead County Adult Drug Court*

**Carl M. Dawson, M.S., MAC, LPC, Q-SAP**  
*Treatment Provider, Springfield, Missouri*  
*Independent Practice*

**Michelle Barrett**  
*Court Coordinator*  
*Benton County Adult Drug Court, Veterans Treatment Court,*  
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## Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts

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**Erin Lewis**

*Public Defender*

*Pulaski County Veterans Treatment Court*

**Sara Swearengin**

*Deputy Prosecuting Attorney | Fourth Judicial District*

*Washington & Madison Counties Adult Drug Courts,*

*Washington County Mental Health and Veterans Treatment Courts*

12:00 – 1:30

**Lunch**

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1:30 – 2:45

**Legal Issues in Treatment Courts**

Rock Island I-VII

**Monica Christofferson, J.D.**

*Senior Director, Office of National Initiatives*

*Center for Justice Innovation*

2:45 – 3:00

**Break**

3:00 – 4:30

**Defining Complex Trauma, Co-Dependency,  
and Narcissism**

Rock Island I-VII

**Carl M. Dawson, M.S., MAC, LPC, Q-SAP**

*Independent Practice*

4:30

**Adjourn**

# Breakout Sessions

	Juvenile Drug Court	Coordinators	Newcomers	General
	Junction I-II	Rock Island I-II	Rock Island V-VI-VII	Rock Island III-IV
<b>Hour 1</b> Wednesday, 1:30 – 2:30	<b>Risk-Need-Responsivity Model</b>  <b>Elisha Harris</b> <i>Senior Program Manager</i>  <b>Mark Hill</b> <i>Site Manager</i>  <i>National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges</i>	<b>Coordinator 101: Roles, Responsibilities, and Shared Values</b>  <b>Courtney Williams, M.S.</b> <i>Senior Program Manager, Center for Justice Innovation</i>  <b>Sheila McCarthy, LMSW</b> <i>Senior Program Manager, Recovery and Reform Team, Center for Justice Innovation</i>	<b>Best Practice Standards</b>  <b>Julie Baldwin, Ph.D.</b> <i>Research Professor, Law &amp; Criminology, American University</i>  <b>Jamie Vaske, Ph.D.</b> <i>Research Professor, School of Public Affairs, American University</i>	<b>Meeting the Levels of Care in Resource-Scarce Communities</b>  <b>Will Smith, M.S.W.</b>  <i>Reentry Specialist, Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Program, U.S. Probation Office, Northern District of Illinois</i>
<b>Hour 2</b> Wednesday, 2:30 – 3:30	<b>Target Population and Eligibility Criteria</b>  <b>Elisha Harris</b> <i>Senior Program Manager</i>  <b>Mark Hill</b> <i>Site Manager</i>  <i>National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges</i>	<b>Understanding the Impact of Word Choice on Participant Outcomes</b>  <b>Courtney Williams, M.S.</b> <i>Senior Program Manager, Center for Justice Innovation</i>  <b>Sheila McCarthy, LMSW</b> <i>Senior Program Manager, Recovery and Reform Team, Center for Justice Innovation</i>	<b>Risk-Need-Responsivity Model</b>  <b>Julie Baldwin, Ph.D.</b> <i>Research Professor, Law &amp; Criminology, American University</i>  <b>Jamie Vaske, Ph.D.</b> <i>Research Professor, School of Public Affairs, American University</i>	<b>Psychopharmacology: How a Drug Hijacks the Brain</b>  <b>Carl M. Dawson, M.S., MAC, LPC, Q-SAP</b> <i>Independent Practice</i>
<b>Hour 3</b> Wednesday, 3:45 – 4:45	<b>Drug Testing and Wellness Considerations</b>  <b>Elisha Harris</b> <i>Senior Program Manager</i>  <b>Mark Hill</b> <i>Site Manager</i>  <i>National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges</i>	<b>Communication Styles and Role Reversal</b>  <b>Courtney Williams, M.S.</b> <i>Senior Program Manager, Center for Justice Innovation</i>  <b>Sheila McCarthy, LMSW</b> <i>Senior Program Manager, Recovery and Reform Team, Center for Justice Innovation</i>	<b>Sanctions and Incentives, and Identifying Potential Participants</b>  <b>Julie Baldwin, Ph.D.</b> <i>Research Professor, Law &amp; Criminology, American University</i>  <b>Jamie Vaske, Ph.D.</b> <i>Research Professor, School of Public Affairs, American University</i>	<b>Medication for Opioid Use Disorder</b>  <b>Alejandra Garcia</b> <i>Associate Director, National Technical Assistance, Center for Justice Innovation</i>
<b>Hour 4</b> Thursday, 10:00 – 11:00	<b>Role of the Treatment Provider on the JDTC Team</b>  <b>Brent Vaughn</b> <i>National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges</i>			
<b>Hour 5</b> Thursday, 11:00 – 12:00	<b>Participant Engagement in Treatment</b>  <b>Brent Vaughn</b> <i>National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges</i>			